

IN MEMORIAM**Kristi Bombol (1957 – 2015)**

Professor Kristi Bombol, who dedicated her whole academic career to the transport and traffic science – focusing on scientific research and advances in application as well as on communicating her knowledge and expertise to her students in a sophisticated manner with the aim of raising the quality of education at the Macedonian State Sv. Kliment Ohridski University – Bitola to a level corresponding to the most modern trends in European education, passed away on 11 May 2015.

She was born in Bitola on 24 December 1957, as the first child of a highly intellectual family in which education, culture, literature, arts, music, and humanity were the highest values cherished.

Professor Kristi Bombol completed her primary and secondary education in Bitola and acquired her university diploma at the Faculty of Traffic and Transport Engineering – University of Belgrade in 1981, majoring in Road Traffic. The same year she started working as a Junior Teaching Assistant/Fellow at the Faculty of Technical Sciences at Sv. Kliment Ohridski University – Bitola. Upon her master thesis defence at the same department at the University of Belgrade, in 1989, she was awarded the academic degree and title Master of Philosophy.

After a thorough and highly dedicated research as a British Council scholarship holder and Researcher at the Institute for Transport Studies at the University in Leeds (1992 – 1993), UK, in 1996 she defended her doctoral thesis at the Faculty of Technical Sciences at Sv. Kliment Ohridski University – Bitola. In the year 1998, she enters her postdoctoral studies as a Fulbright grant holder at the University of Pennsylvania, Department of Systems Engineering – Philadelphia, US.

She was appointed full professor in 2006.

Professor Kristi Bombol's career is abundant with academic research grants and professional visits to other prestigious universities all over the world: Institut

für Leichtbau und Seilbahntechnik – ETH – Zürich; ITS, Leeds; Universidade de Aveiro, Portugal; Politecnico di Torino; Ghent University, Belgium; Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz, Austria; Lunds Universitet, Sweden, etc.

The acknowledgments and awards that she was rewarded with also come from foreign universities and societies: Opatija, Croatia, (2000, 2001, 2002, 2004); Silver Plate awarded by the Croatian Scientific Society for Traffic and Transport, 2000; Silver Plate by the University La Rosa di Gerico, Rome, Italy, 1999; Silver Plate award for extraordinary successful student delivered on the occasion of 40th Anniversary of the Faculty of Transport & Traffic Engineering, Belgrade, Serbia; Four awards for being the best student at the Faculty of Transport & Traffic Engineering - Belgrade (1977, 1979, 1980, 1981).

Undoubtedly such an abundant career of Professor Kristi Bombol in the Transport and Traffic Engineering Science resulted in a large number of academic research papers and publications. They are, by all means, the heritage she left to all promising students and to the ones ambitious enough to follow her path. However, as she was a person of high ethical principles, always willing to share results, best practices and knowledge, and to promote culture in education and research, reform oriented, a determined promoter of sustainable university studies based on acquired knowledge, competencies and skills, and an expert in Intelligent transport systems, traffic safety management, modern technologies, transport telematics, artificial intelligence and its application in traffic management and control, only time will show the value of the knowledge treasure with which she endowed her contemporaries and all the future intellectuals and scholars.

Above all, she was a great friend: to humanity, to science, to life, to all of us.